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MAY 18 2005

STATE PUBLICATIONS

## NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

### March 2001

### Volume 18, Number 3

March was a very warm month with little precipitation in the West and varying amounts of rain and snow elsewhere. For example, at the Reno Airport temperatures averaged 5.9 degrees above normal tying 1994 for the second warmest March in 114 years of record. The warmest March was 1934 with an average of 52.4°. Many other locations also enjoyed a mild month. No records were set however, as the mercury rose only to the upper 80's and lower 90's (e.g. Overton had 91°), and fell to only -2° at Montgomery Pass, 0° at San Jacinto and 1° at Boies Ranch. State records for March are 101° at Rioville in 1903 and -33° at Diamond Valley near Eureka in 1969.

Precipitation was on the short side again in the West and along the Eastern Slopes of the Sierra Nevada as drought-like conditions exist in many areas. For example, the Tahoe/Truckee area had only 45% of the normal rain and snow for the Water Year to date with 50 % in the Carson and Walker Areas. The Humboldt and Owyhee areas are a little better off with 70% of normal. Some of the driest locations during March were Wadsworth and Vya Shoestring Ranch with 0, .02" at Fernley and .09" at Pyramid Lake. The wettest locations for Nevada this month were 3.55" at Jarbidge-Chapin and 2.67 at Jarbidge-Nystrom (18 inches of snow also fell) 2.22 at the Snowball Ranch near Eureka, 2.11" at Pioche and 1.67" at Elgin.

Using the enclosed table and the Tahoe/Truckee water sheds as an example during the last 15 years drier than normal conditions existed for 6 years (1986-92) with a very wet 1993 year and extremely dry 1994 followed by 5 wet years (1995-1999). The 1999-2001 period was below normal. A roller coaster ride would not have anymore ups and downs in the last 15 years than Nevada Precipitation!!

NOTE: We were saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of F. Dwight Blevins March 31<sup>st</sup> 2001 at his Reno residence. Dwight was born in 1954 in Chillicothe, Ohio and had lived in Reno for the past 12 years coming from Durango Colorado. Dwight graduated from University Nevada Reno with a degree in Geography and was a Geographical Informations Services Technician for the City of Sparks and owned the Sierra Nevada Mapping Company. He was also board member of the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District, and a board member of the Reno Transit Commission. His father preceded him in death. Surviving are companion Sara Freitag of Reno, his mother Anna Mae Blevins of Three Forks, Montana and several other relatives. Dwight's skill as a GIS specialist will be sorely missed as will his easy going, hard working, dedicated to excellence, personality. The State Climate Office dedicates this month's weather summary to Dwight Blevins.

ADDENDA: The February 2001 Climate Summary should be corrected to read on line 3, "This is almost **half** the normal annual total".

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